

DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD (DAB) I

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

6:30 p.m.

Atwater Community Center, 2755 E. 19th, Wichita, Kansas 67214

Members Present

Council Member Lavonta Williams
Steve Roberts
Treatha Brown-Foster
Janet L Wilson
Adam Thomsen
Gerald Domotrovic
Janice Rich
Lori Lawrence
Benjamin Stiff

Guests

Mayor Carl Brewer
JoAnn Hartig, 1756 S Main
Eugene Smith, 2220 N. Roosevelt
John Stevens, 3125 E. Boston
Patricia Fields, 1910 E. 22nd St.
Melody Miller McCrae
Kenya Cox, 2745 N Fountain
Beverly Domotrovic, 1219 GW Drive

City of Wichita Staff Present

Deputy Chief Stolz, Police Department
Virdena Gilkey, Mayor & City Council Office
LaShonda Porter, Neighborhood Assistant

Order of Business

Call to Order

Council Member Williams called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m. and welcomed the guests.

Approval of Minutes

Roberts (Brown-Foster) made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion carried 7:0

Approval of Agenda

Brown-Foster (Lawrence) made a motion to approve the agenda as submitted. Motion carried 7:0

CM Williams thanked everyone for coming and asked that if anyone chose to speak that they state their name and address for the record.

Domotrovic arrived.

Public Agenda

1. Agenda Items

No items submitted.

2. Off Agenda Items

No items submitted.

CM Williams moved that Deputy Chief Stolz present his information to the Board as the Mayor was in route. **Virdena Gilkey** noted that the City had guest from Brazil and the Mayor was attending a meeting with them and would be here shortly.

New Business

1. Crime Trends and Club Ordinances

Deputy Chief Stolz, Police Department, presented information on the District I crime trends from January 1, 2008 through August 31, 2008. Deputy Chief Stolz advised that the major crimes were going down in District 1, but this district held the highest rates in Wichita.

Deputy Stolz noted the following statistics:

Description of Offense	Percentage Change
Murder	↓ 29%
Forcible Rape	↑ 22%
Robbery from Person	↓ 2%
Aggravated Robbery Commercial House	↓ 50%
Aggravated Battery - Firearms	↓ 27%
Aggravated Battery – Drive by Firearms	↓ 10%
Burglary Residence	↓ 18%
Burglary Non-Residence	↓ 19%
Auto Theft Not Recovered	↓ 17%
Battery/DV	↓ 10%
Identity Theft	↓ 27%
Prostitution	↑ 32%
Unlawful Sale of Meth	↓ 7%
Unlawful Possession of Narcotics	↓ 20%
Unlawful Possession of Marijuana	↓ 27%
Disorderly Conduct Other	↓ 12%
Drive Under Influence	↓ 28%
Destruct to Auto	↓ 15%
Other Destruction to Property	↓ 10%
Larcenies A (All other \$1,000+)	↑ 6%
Motor Vehicle in Transport	↑ 1%

Stolz also advised that the Police Department originated 30,175 cases in District 1, in which at this rate we will reduce the case load by 13%.

Stolz noted we that also had six (6) cases of children under the age of 3 and under murder this year. Police are working to put out information about the importance of reporting abuse.

Brown-Foster wanted to know if the two(2) year old that passed away – if the mother was arrested and charged. **Stolz** confirmed that yes the mother had been arrested and charged.

Stolz also informed the Board that they are working on the club ordinance and what businesses requirements are to open a drinking establishment (DE) or drinking establishment restaurant (DER). **Stolz** advised that a peer study has been completed,

surveys have been sent to club owners and an internal committee has been established to review the information. The internal team will meet on October 9th to discuss the findings. **Stolz** noted that it is his hope that the first part of October they will begin to re-write ordinances and get before the City Council by the end of October. **Stolz** noted this was an aggressive schedule but wanted to get things moving for approval by January 2009.

Stolz advised that some of the requirements they are looking at is requiring business to provide a business plan when applying for a license, have a CPTED (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design), as well as, working in an appeal process for immediate neighbors to voice their concerns. The intent is to build accountability – if they create a nuisance above the norm – the Chief of Police will have mechanism to review and their license for possible suspension or forfeiture.

Wilson wanted to know if the ordinance would define “norm?” **Stolz** stated that they are going to put a quantitative number to norm. He stated that they would look at the current stats and get an average usage number to have created the benchmark.

Brown-Foster wanted to know what Class A clubs we had in District 1. **Stolz** advised that most issues are with De and DER clubs. **Stolz** noted our main problem was DER’s that are operating but not selling a lot of food. She noted that we have to give them at least six months before we can conduct an audit.

Wilson wanted to know how cabarets worked. **Stolz** advised that we are looking at those establishments as well. Cabaret can stay open until 3:00 -4:00 a.m. and DE’s are open until 2:00 a.m. Additionally, cabaret can have live music. **Wilson** responded that the cabaret at Cleveland and Central was also selling liquor. **Stolz** responded that this can get complicated – once the license is issued through the City we can’t enter the property without a search warrant. The Law Department has been working on a more holistic nuisance ordinance that would assist as well in this process. We definitely need to address the fringe type of businesses.

Thomsen wanted to know if we were looking at probation or just pulling the license. Do we run the risk of people not calling the Police because of the new rules? **Stolz** said yes we need to look at all that. We must be careful so we don’t create a tough environment. We don’t want them to stop calling and other statistics increase.

Williams wanted to know how incidents calls would be counted against the businesses. Would it be determined on who called? **Stolz** said that we would document all calls, because a large number of other homicides and these locations.

Stolz also noted that we want this to be legal, constitutional and don’t want to run people out of business. Neighbors need a voice and Police need to be able to revisit the license at a later date.

Stiff commented that if you reduce the time for the audit it will not be useful because it does not give the business enough time to give an accurate picture of the business.

Wilson wanted to know if we could grant a probationary period. **Stolz** noted the Stiff makes a good point, if we check in two months then businesses may not make it. So we will have to really look at it to determine what is best for both sides. **Stolz** noted that he does not want to see everyone seeking an appeal if he wants to work with them up front.

JoAnn Hartig, 1756 S. Main thanked the Board for attending the community meeting regarding the Chubbs Club. She also noted that the club has decided to not relocate in the area.

John Stevens, 3125 E. Boston, Wichita Independent Neighborhoods, thanked Stolz for his work. He is appreciative that Stolz is bringing neighbors into the process and giving them a voice.

Williams wanted to know if we had tried bringing the club owners together to discuss this issue. **Stolz** stated no – we have sent surveys to the good clubs who have been in business for three years or more with few incidents. He noted that we might need to try and would look to setting up such a meeting after the first internal meeting.

The **Board** thanked **Stolz** for his time and presentation.

Action Taken: Receive and file.

2. Downtown Redevelopment Initiative

Mayor Carl Brewer presented information on his vision for the future of downtown Wichita. **Mayor Brewer** noted that they were just returning from Mexico and when there they were able to share some of Wichita's best practices, community engagement opportunities, community pride and economic development tip. **Mayor Brewer** noted that he was able to share our successes with Mexico and looks forward to moving our downtown Wichita to the next level.

Mayor Brewer noted that we need to think about where we want to be? How do we retain our youth – our future leaders? Looking at those needs we need to provide them with the necessities they need to live, work and play. **Mayor Brewer** stated that if you don't make the investment today for the future generations, they are definitely going to leave. Think about the big brain drain – our future is moving to healthy communities with vibrant downtown areas.

Mayor Brewer advised that we need to look at our future – plan for 50 years, creating a diverse workforce, jobs and opportunities for everyone. Don't take lightly that if they decide to leave will be alright because we won't. We have everything with the exception of the will and heart to take some aggressive measures to enhance our downtown Wichita. **Mayor Brewer** challenged residents to look at Oklahoma City, Tulsa and Kansas City and see how they are moving forward and we will see that we really need to look at what we are doing – as we are about 15 years behind in comparison to other cities.

Mayor Brewer noted that he has the vision that we can improve the Quality of Life for the entire City; but it takes the community leaders, residents, business owners, everyone to step up. We need to take it to the next level and implement the plans created by visioneering. We must make it happen.

Mayor Brewer visions that the City of Wichita will take some bold steps. Old Town with become a gathering place for restaurants and retailers; a place people can choose to live and have support services such as a grocery store, cleaners, entertainment, shopping centers and more. The

downtown will be a bike and pedestrian friendly environment and will a vibrant community for everyone. **Mayor Brewer** stated that we must address the parking needs but we must also create a way finding system, to make it easier for people to get around – including area markers. In addition we must also make some street improvements and all of these efforts must be completed before the new Intrust Bank Arena opens in 2010.

Mayor Brewer noted that the vision for Wichita's downtown will include attractive and affordable housing, shops and restaurants, multiple entertainment venues, open space, a pedestrian friendly environment and more. **Mayor Brewer** stated now is the time for action and each of the citizens play a role and by working together we can make this vision come alive. So work with elected officials with defining a road-map; help promote a need for a strong downtown; support elected officials to move the development of downtown. We must get involved; we can make Wichita a healthy and vibrant community for all ages.

Mayor Brewer expressed this is a critical time for Wichita and if we don't do something today other cities will begin to take our businesses, jobs, and young professionals. We can be a great city we just need to pull together. We need people to know that Wichita is the place to be.

Wilson wanted to know if the City has addressed the super fund sites. **Mayor Brewer** responded that yes and we have monitors in place so if they become active we can quickly address.

Brown-Foster wanted to know how many with the new Intrust Bank Arena hold and can we handle the Big 12?. **Mayor Brewer** responded 18,000 and yes we can. **Brown-Foster** also noted that she did not see any benches in the pictures distributed showing the Mayors vision. **Mayor Brewer** stated were going to have benches, we are encouraging outside cafes and we are looking at an Art's District on Commerce Street.

Thomsen stated his main concerns were the parking issues and wanted to know how the Arena got approved with our adequate parking. **Mayor Brewer** stated we do need to address parking and it is a priority to make sure that visitors have a good visit when they come to Wichita. **Mayor Brewer** noted that both CM Williams and CM Longwell are busy working to address this issue.

CM Williams noted that we have looked at the park-n-ride system and at the lots and spaces available in a four-block radius of the new Arena. We are definitely looking at all our options.

Roberts wanted to what areas will the City and County collaboration be most beneficial. **Mayor Brewer** stated that we really need to sit down and evaluate what going to be the best interest of the community. We need to work a lot closer together to meet the needs of the community.

Brown-Foster wanted to know if there are enough hotels downtown to accommodate visitors for large events. **Mayor Brewer** noted that we do have enough hotels. Some new hotels are in the process of opening (at least three) – not including the Broadview. **Mayor Brewer** also noted that we will have to utilize all of the hotels in the city and utilize our transit system to move people around.

Stiff wanted to know about green space and the location of the Library. **Mayor Brewer** we are always looking at green space, we are encouraging green roofs for new development. **Mayor Brewer** also noted that the City is still learning and as we learn more we hope to get better.

Brown-Foster wanted to know if young professionals were buying the condo's and lofts downtown. **Mayor Brewer** responded yes they love the downtown area.

CM Williams and the **Board** thanked **Mayor Brewer** for his time and update.

Action Taken: Receive and file.

Board Agenda

3. Updates, Issues, and Reports

Wilson advised that she had a good meeting with K-96 Neighborhood Association.

Rich advised that the Hyde Neighborhood Association ice cream social was cancelled due to the inclement weather.

Lawrence advised that the Uptown Halloween Party was coming up. She also advised that she has been asked to speak at the Elm Neighborhood Association meeting regarding the success of their community pocket park.

Porter advised that CM Williams will host the first District 1 Mental Health Forum at Great Plains Nature Center on Monday, September 29th at 7:00 p.m.

CM Williams advised that McDonald Golf Course now has their walking path.

Brown-Foster advised that the Young Professionals has selected their Neighborhood Association for a community service project. **CM Williams** also noted that she worked with Young Professionals to select the area and some of the things they looked at were home ownership statistics, schools in the area and the two schools that they looked at included Spaght and Gordon Parks. After reviewing the homeownership statistics the homeownership was higher around Gordon Parks.

Domotrovic noted that the PROS meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 25th.

Wilson thanked CM Williams for working in the community. **Wilson** also explained that Westar is looking to raise our rates by 15% - \$10.34 (southern region) and \$9.62 (northern region) for the same kilowatts. **Wilson** noted that the northern region serves 50,000 more customers than the southern region and this increase is not fair. **Wilson** noted that she has submitted a petition against the increase and also providing a copy of the consumer facts provided by Westar Energy. **Wilson** noted that we must stay on top of this issue because what they are trying to do is not fair. **Wilson** advised that the next technical hearing is scheduled for October 29th and a decision must be made by January.

CM Williams advised that the next DAB meeting will be held Wednesday, October 8th at 6:30 p.m.

John Stevens, 3125 E. Boston commended Janet for her work on this Westar issue. **CM Williams** echoed Stevens and stated that we must realize that our voice counts.

With no further business, **Roberts (Thomsen)** made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried 8-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
LaShonda Porter
Neighborhood Assistant